

2022 FIFA World Cup™

21 November – 19 December 2022

SBS Media Kit



FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar2022

OFFICIAL BROADCASTER



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**For images, interviews and further information,
please contact:**

Nikki Gunnis

Communications Specialist

✉ Nicola.gunnis@sbs.com.au
📞 0426 780 426

Milly Palmer

Publicity Manager

✉ Milly.palmer@sbs.com.au
📞 0406 348 248



The Overview



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The FIFA World Cup™ is the absolute pinnacle of football, a sport that truly unites Australia's diverse communities, and as our ninth consecutive time broadcasting the tournament, Australians can again turn to SBS' trusted coverage and analysis of the event on television, radio, SBS On Demand and online this November and December.

As the official broadcaster of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar™, SBS will present all 64 matches, along with comprehensive highlights and analysis of every match live and free for all Australian on television, online and SBS On Demand.

SBS Radio will also broadcast all 64 matches of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar™, live and free via DAB digital radio, mobile and online. Matches will be broadcast in up to four languages simultaneously; English, Arabic and in languages of competing teams.

SBS will offer access to all live matches with Arabic commentary as simultaneous match streams available in SBS On Demand. The Arabic coverage will include "whistle to whistle" match coverage with Arabic commentary and graphics, beginning from the national anthems until the final whistle.

In 2022, SBS has again secured global exclusive commentary from the iconic 'voice of football' Martin Tyler, who will join respected football presenters Richard Bayliss and Niaq Owens as part of this year's exclusive SBS broadcast. They will be joined by David Basheer who will commentate on all Socceroos matches and special studio guests and experts including Craig Foster, Mark Bosnich, and Sarah Walsh.

Qatar 2022™ will deliver extensive digital coverage via the SBS Sport Website (sbs.com.au/sport)

offering an Interactive Match Centre plus highlight clips of all matches, exclusive interviews and opinion pieces, video extras, fixtures, stats and results.

Meanwhile, SBS On Demand will be the digital home of this year's event. Via the 'FIFA World Cup Hub' on SBS On Demand, Australians can live stream all 64 games and catch up on all match replays, short-form video extras, mini matches, and the daily highlights program and Classic Matches from previous tournaments, available to enjoy anytime and anywhere. Stay awake ahead of late games with SBS On Demand's premium content selection of more than 11,000 hours of international sport, movies, dramas and docs and more.

SBS is deeply passionate about football, believing its universal appeal can break down barriers without language. We know Aussies love to get behind sporting heroes and are confident the country will join us in supporting the Socceroos, and of course their other national teams, as they take on the best in the world in Qatar.

Fascinating, nail-biting, exciting, exhilarating and flat out terrifying. That's the FIFA World Cup™, and we wouldn't have it any other way.



The Groups



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Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
Qatar	England	Argentina	France	Spain	Belgium	Brazil	Portugal
Ecuador	IR Iran	Saudi Arabia	Australia	Costa Rica	Canada	Serbia	Ghana
Senegal	USA	Mexico	Denmark	Germany	Morocco	Switzerland	Uruguay
Netherlands	Wales	Poland	Tunisia	Japan	Croatia	Cameroon	Korea Republic

The Match Schedule



FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022

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 Qatar	v	 Ecuador	02:30 - 05:30 KO 03:00
 England	v	 IR Iran	23:30 - 02:30 KO 24:00

 Senegal	v	Netherlands 	02:30 - 05:30 KO 03:00
 USA	v	Wales 	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
 Argentina	v	Saudi Arabia 	20:30 - 23:30 KO 21:00
 Denmark	v	Tunisia 	23:30 - 02:30 KO 24:00

 Mexico	v	 Poland	02:30 - 05:00 KO 03:00
 France	v	 Australia	05:00 - 08:30 KO 06:00
 Morocco	v	 Croatia	20:30 - 23:30 KO 21:00
 Germany	v	 Japan	23:30 - 02:30 KO 24:00

 Spain	v	Costa Rica 	02:30 - 05:30 KO 03:00
 Belgium	v	Canada 	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
 Switzerland	v	Cameroon 	20:30 - 23:30 KO 21:00
 Uruguay	v	South Korea 	23:30 - 02:30 KO 24:00

 Portugal	v	Ghana 	02:30 - 05:30 KO 03:00
 Brazil	v	Serbia 	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
 Wales	v	IR Iran 	20:30 - 23:30 KO 21:00
 Qatar	v	Senegal 	23:30 - 02:30 KO 24:00

 Netherlands	v	Ecuador 	02:30 - 05:30 KO 03:00
 England	v	USA 	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
 Tunisia	v	Australia 	19:30 - 23:30 KO 21:00
 Poland	v	Saudi Arabia 	23:30 - 02:30 KO 24:00

 France	v	Denmark 	02:30 - 05:30 KO 03:00
 Argentina	v	Mexico 	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00

 Japan	v	 Costa Rica	20:30 - 23:30 KO 2100
 Belgium	v	 Morocco	23:30 - 02:30 KO 2400

28 Nov	 Croatia	v	Canada 	02:30 - 05:30 KO 03:00
	 Spain	v	Germany 	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
	 Cameroon	v	Serbia 	20:30 - 23:30 KO 21:00
	 South Korea	v	Ghana 	23:30 - 02:30 KO 24:00

29 Nov	 Brazil	v	Switzerland 	02:30 - 05:30 KO 03:00
	 Portugal	v	Uruguay 	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
	 Netherlands	v	Qatar 	01:30 - 04:30 KO 02:00

 Wales	v	England 	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
 IR Iran	v	USA 	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
 Australia	v	Denmark 	01:00 - 04:30 KO 02:00

 Poland	v	Argentina 	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
 Saudi Arabia	v	Mexico 	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
 Belgium	v	Croatia 	01:30 - 04:30 KO 02:00

 Japan	v	 Spain	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
 Costa Rica	v	 Germany	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
 South Korea	v	 Portugal	01:30 - 04:30 KO 02:00

1A	V	2B	01:30 - 04:30 KO 02:00
1C	V	2D	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00

1D	V	2C	0130 - 0430 KO 0200
1B	V	2A	0530 - 0830 KO 0600
1E	V	2F	0130 - 0430 KO 0200

1F	V	2E	01:30 - 04:30 KO 02:00
1H	V	2G	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00

W53	V	W54	01:30 - 04:30 KO 02:00
W49	V	W50	05:30 - 08:30 KO 06:00
W55	V	W56	01:30 - 04:30 KO 02:00

W57 V **W58**

Play-Off	TBC	V	TBC	01:30 - 04:30 KO 02:00
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The SBS Team



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Richard Bayliss

Football Presenter

Richard Bayliss is one of Australia's most respected football journalists and presenters - having appeared in front of the camera with Optus Sport and Fox Sports in addition to a significant contribution to the game behind it. Richard has hosted coverage of some of the planet's biggest football leagues and competitions, such as the FIFA World Cup, FIFA Women's World Cup, FIFA Confederations Cup, Premier League, UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, and UEFA Euro 2020. Richard appeared as lead presenter on Optus Sport for five years since its inception in 2016, where he also guided the production and editorial direction as Executive Producer then Director of Sport. No stranger to tournament football, having hosted the finals of the Champions and Europa Leagues, along with the Euros - Richard presented a daily World Cup show from Moscow whilst also appearing pitch side throughout the 2018 event. During the lead-up to the World Cup, Richard hosted the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup which was co-produced by SBS and Optus Sport.



Niav Owens

Football Presenter

Niav has carved out a successful career as a sports broadcaster in Australia and internationally for more than a decade. Niav has covered some of the biggest sporting events on the planet and brings an upbeat, positive and thoughtful vibe to everything she does. In 2021, Niav hosted Euro 2020 on Optus Sport; a tournament that signified the re-emergence of international sport post-COVID-19 and captured the imagination of football fans around the world. Niav hosts Matildas and Socceroos internationals on Network 10, as well as 10's coverage of domestic football in Australia through the A-Leagues. Prior to that, Niav hosted the ABC's flagship sports program, National Grandstand on ABC Radio, and has anchored rolling sports coverage on ABC News 24 and Fox Sports News. Niav has worked trackside on the Beijing Olympics and the London Paralympic Games, covered the Women's World Cup in France and the Premier League, reported from the Rugby World Cup in London and Japan, and was pitch-side at the recordbreaking Women's T20 Cricket World Cup Final at the MCG.



Martin Tyler

Exclusive Commentator

Martin Tyler is the world's best football commentator and has commentated some of the biggest matches in international football. Hailing from England, Martin is a current commentator at Sky Sports UK and has been for over 25 years. He is the iconic voice of football in the Premier League and FIFA's immensely popular video game series, and his commentary of blockbuster matches in the FIFA World Cup, FA Cup, and the UEFA Champions League has been avidly listened to right around the globe.

This is Martin's eighth FIFA World Cup with SBS.

The SBS Team



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Craig Foster

Football Analyst

Following a decorated football career as Australia's 41st Socceroo and 40th Captain, Craig has become one of Australia's most respected sportspeople. In 1985, Craig represented Australia in the junior national team at age 15 in the first FIFA Under-16 World Cup in China, where he was selected in the FIFA Team of the Tournament. He would later go on to represent Australia at senior level on 29 occasions. Following retirement, he quickly became one of Australia's most respected sports broadcasters with an 18-year, triple Logie-winning career with SBS as part of The World Game (TWG) team which included five FIFA World Cups and four FIFA Women's World Cups as well as the UEFA Champions League, Premier League and other domestic competitions. Craig's passionate commentary for the 2005 World Cup qualification playoff match against Uruguay at Australia Stadium, Sydney stands as one of the sport's most iconic broadcast moments and, along with Australia's Round of 16 match against Italy in 2006 and the Russia World Cup 2018, was celebrated with a Logie for Most Outstanding Sports Coverage.



Mark Bosnich

Football Analyst

Mark 'Bozza' Bosnich is an Australian former professional footballer and is one of Australia's most well-known football exports with a career spanning over 20 years. The former Manchester United, Chelsea, Aston Villa and Socceroos goalkeeper is considered by many as a legend of Australian football, having represented Australia numerous times during his career including the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and the 1997 FIFA Confederations Cup.

Since his retirement from professional football in 2009, Mark has provided expert football commentary as a key member of both Fox Sports and Stan Sports where he is highly respected for his adept knowledge and analysis of the game.



Sarah Walsh

Football Analyst

Sarah Walsh is a former Australian football player and member of Australia's national women's football team, the Matildas, where she represented Australia at football's top tier, including the 2004 Olympic Games, the 2006 AFC Women's Asian Cup, and the FIFA Women's World Cup 2007. Since her retirement from professional football in 2012, Sarah has been dedicated to developing the game of women's football in Australia and is currently the Head of Women's Football, Women's World Cup Legacy, and Inclusion at Football Australia. The former Matildas star and A-League Women commentator was the first female expert to commentate a men's football match in Australia.

She also commentated on the FIFA Women's World Cup for SBS in 2019 alongside David Basheer.

The SBS Team



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David Basheer

Commentator / Reporter on location, Qatar

A Commentator, Presenter and Reporter, David Basheer's media career spans over 35 years and includes nine FIFA World Cups (5 Men's & 4 Women's), the UEFA Champions League, FA Cup, the Asian Cup and 6 Olympic Games. David started calling National Soccer League matches for the ABC in 1989, his first appearance on SBS was to provide commentary on Olympic qualifying matches in 1995. David would go on to call NSL and A League football on SBS. David worked as a reporter on SBS' France 98 World Cup. In 2002 for the World cup in Japan & Korea, David hosted the "World Cup Today" show on ESPN Star Sports across Asia. At the 2010, 2014 and 2018 FIFA World Cups, David was a lead commentator from South Africa, Brazil & Russia for SBS. David has called four UEFA Champions league finals for SBS, an FA Cup final from the famed Wembley stadium, the Confederations cup and numerous World youth cups. David most recently hosted SBS' coverage of the 2021 FIFA Arab Cup from Qatar and provided commentary at the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup in France which included calling the final in Lyon, USA's historic win over the Netherlands.



Matt Connellan

Reporter on location, Qatar

Matt Connellan brings a wealth of tv broadcast experience and football passion to the SBS Sport team for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Matt has been a news and sport reporter for more than a decade, and for the vast majority of that at SBS. He first arrived at SBS in the late 2000s and was taken under the wing of Les Murray and the SBS Sport team. Matt's formative years as a reporter and broadcaster were spent covering the NPL in New South Wales, and since then, Matt has been a sideline reporter for SBS Sport at various A-League matches, as well as Arsenal and Chelsea's tours of Australia. More recently he hosted The World Game television program and The World Game live social media show. He has covered a number of global news stories overseas, including the detention and release of footballer Hakeem Al-Araibi in Thailand, for SBS World News. Matt is currently SBS World News' National Editor, and is returning home to SBS Sport for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Matt will lead SBS Sport's on-the-ground coverage from Qatar, reporting from the sidelines of key matches in Doha.

The SBS TV Coverage



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SBS will present all matches of the 2022 FIFA World Cup™ live, free, and in HD for all Australians along with highlights and analysis of all 64 matches on television and online.



21 - 22 Nov

Qatar	v	Ecuador	0230 - 0530 KO 0300
England	v	IR Iran	23:30 - 0230 KO 2400
Senegal	v	Netherlands	0230 - 0530 KO 0300
USA	v	Wales	0530 - 0830 KO 0600
Argentina	v	Saudi Arabia	2030 - 2330 KO 2100
Denmark	v	Tunisia	23:30 - 0230 KO 2400

23 - 24 Nov

Mexico	v	Poland	0230 - 0500 KO 0300
France	v	Australia	0500 - 0830 KO 0600
Morocco	v	Croatia	2030 - 2330 KO 2100
Germany	v	Japan	2330 - 0230 KO 2400
Spain	v	Costa Rica	0230 - 0530 KO 0300
Belgium	v	Canada	0530 - 0830 KO 0600

SBS's coverage of the Round of 16 and Quarter Finals will be announced throughout the tournament.

5 Dec
Round of 16

1D	v	2C	0130 - 0430 KO 0200
1B	v	2A	0530 - 0830 KO 0600

6 Dec
Round of 16

1E	v	2F	0130 - 0430 KO 0200
1G	v	2H	0530 - 0830 KO 0600

7 Dec
Round of 16

1F	v	2E	0130 - 0430 KO 0200
1H	v	2G	0530 - 0830 KO 0600

10 Dec
Quarter-Finals

W53	v	W54	0130 - 0430 KO 0200
W49	v	W50	0530 - 0830 KO 0600

11 Dec
Quarter-Finals

W55	v	W56	0130 - 0430 KO 0200
W51	v	W52	0530 - 0830 KO 0600

14 Dec
Semi-Finals

W57	v	W58	0530 - 0830 KO 0600
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15 Dec
Semi-Finals

W59	v	W60	0530 - 0830 KO 0600
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18 Dec
3rd v 4th Play-Off

TBC	v	TBC	0130 - 0430 KO 0200
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19 Dec
Final

TBC	v	TBC	0100 - 0430 KO 0200
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All times are AEDT and are subject to change

TV Coverage Highlights



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FIFA World Cup Classic Matches

Relive the greatest moments in FIFA World Cup™ history overnights throughout Qatar 2022™ with classic matches on SBS and SBS Viceland. All 25 matches from 1986 to 2018, including Socceroo games, will also be available to stream anytime on SBS On Demand. For the full list of matches head to: www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/program/fifa-world-cup-classic-matches

Linear Match Replays

Each match day from 8.30am AEDT on SBS

Plus simultaneous match repeats on SBS VICELAND

A full replay of all 64 Live matches on SBS as well as match repeats for Viceland. In addition, from round 16 a curated selection of the best matches will be played each afternoon at 2.30pm AEDT. All matches will also be available to stream anytime on SBS On Demand.

Radio Coverage and Schedule



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SBS Radio will broadcast and stream all 64 matches of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar™, live and free for all Australians. Matches can be heard in up to four languages simultaneously; English, Arabic, and in the languages of competing teams. This multilingual coverage is in partnership with respected sports media outlets from around the world. Experience the passion of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar™ with live audio commentary in English on SBS Football 1, in Arabic on SBS Arabic24, and in multiple languages on SBS Football 2 and SBS Football 3.

**Every match live and free
in multiple languages
including English**

		Kick off		Languages	App stream only
2	Tue 22 Nov	3:00	SEN v Netherlands	ENGLISH, ARABIC, DUTCH, FRENCH	
3	Mon 21 Nov	0:00	ENG v IR Iran	ENGLISH, ARABIC, PERSIAN	
1	Mon 21 Nov	3:00	Qatar v Ecuador	ENGLISH, PERSIAN, SPANISH	
4	Tues 22 Nov	6:00	USA v Wales	ENGLISH, ARABIC	
8	Tues 22 Nov	21:00	Argentina v Saudi Arabia	ENGLISH, ARABIC, SPANISH	
6	Tues 22 Nov	0:00	Denmark v Tunisia	ENGLISH, ARABIC	
7	Wed 23 Nov	3:00	Mexico v Poland	ENGLISH, ARABIC, POLISH, SPANISH	
5	Wed 23 Nov	6:00	France v Australia	ENGLISH, ARABIC, FRENCH	
12	Wed 23 Nov	21:00	Morocco v Croatia	ENGLISH, ARABIC, CROATIAN	
11	Wed 23 Nov	0:00	Germany v Japan	ENGLISH, ARABIC, GERMAN, JAPANESE	
10	Thu 24 Nov	3:00	Spain v Costa Rica	ENGLISH, ARABIC, SPANISH	
9	Thu 24 Nov	6:00	Belgium v Canada	ENGLISH, ARABIC, DUTCH	
13	Thu 24 Nov	21:00	Switzerland v Cameroon	ENGLISH, ARABIC, FRENCH, DUTCH	
14	Thu 24 Nov	0:00	Uruguay v South Korea	ENGLISH, ARABIC, SPANISH, KOREAN	
15	Fri 25 Nov	3:00	Portugal v Ghana	ENGLISH, ARABIC, PORTUGUESE	
16	Fri 25 Nov	6:00	Brazil v Serbia	ENGLISH, PORTUGUESE	
17	Fri 25 Nov	21:00	Wales v IR Iran	ENGLISH, ARABIC, PERSIAN	
18	Fri 25 Nov	0:00	Qatar v Senegal	ENGLISH, ARABIC, FRENCH	
19	Sat 26 Nov	3:00	Netherlands v Ecuador	ENGLISH, ARABIC, SPANISH, DUTCH	
20	Sat 26 Nov	6:00	England v USA	ENGLISH, ARABIC	
21	Sat 26 Nov	21:00	Tunisia v Australia	ENGLISH, ARABIC	
22	Sat 26 Nov	0:00	Poland v Saudi Arabia	ENGLISH, ARABIC, POLISH	
23	Sun 27 Nov	3:00	France v Denmark	ENGLISH, ARABIC, FRENCH	
24	Sun 27 Nov	6:00	Argentina v Mexico	ENGLISH, ARABIC, SPANISH	

		Kick off		Languages	App stream only
25	Sun 27 Nov	21:00	Japan v Costa Rica	ENGLISH, ARABIC, SPANISH, JAPANESE	
26	Sun 27 Nov	0:00	Belgium v Morocco	ENGLISH, ARABIC, DUTCH	
27	Mon 28 Nov	3:00	Croatia v Canada	ENGLISH, ARABIC, CROATIAN	
28	Mon 28 Nov	6:00	Spain v Germany	ENGLISH, GERMAN, SPANISH	
29	Mon 28 Nov	21:00	Cameroon v Serbia	ENGLISH, ARABIC, FRENCH	
30	Mon 28 Nov	0:00	South Korea v Ghana	ENGLISH, ARABIC, KOREAN	
31	Tue 29 Nov	3:00	Brazil v Switzerland	ENGLISH, ARABIC, GERMAN, PORTUGUESE	
32	Tue 29 Nov	6:00	Portugal v Uruguay	ENGLISH, SPANISH, PORTUGUESE	
36	Wed 30 Nov	2:00	Netherlands v Qatar	ENGLISH, ARABIC, DUTCH	
35	Wed 30 Nov	2:00	Ecuador v Senegal	ENGLISH	
33	Wed 30 Nov	6:00	Wales v England	ENGLISH	
34	Wed 30 Nov	6:00	IR Iran v USA	ENGLISH, PERSIAN	
37	Thu 1 Dec	2:00	Australia v Denmark	ENGLISH	
38	Thu 1 Dec	2:00	Tunisia v France	ENGLISH, ARABIC, FRENCH	
39	Thu 1 Dec	6:00	Poland v Argentina	ENGLISH, SPANISH	
40	Thu 1 Dec	6:00	Saudi Arabia v Mexico	ENGLISH, ARABIC, SPANISH	
41	Fri 2 Dec	2:00	Croatia v Belgium	ENGLISH, CROATIAN	
42	Fri 2 Dec	2:00	Canada v Morocco	ENGLISH, ARABIC	
43	Fri 2 Dec	6:00	Japan v Spain	ENGLISH	
44	Fri 2 Dec	6:00	Costa Rica v Germany	ENGLISH, GERMAN	
46	Sat 3 Dec	2:00	South Korea v Portugal	ENGLISH, KOREAN	
45	Sat 3 Dec	2:00	Ghana v Uruguay	ENGLISH	
48	Sat 3 Dec	6:00	Cameroon v Brazil	ENGLISH, PORTUGUESE	
47	Sat 3 Dec	6:00	Serbia v Switzerland	ENGLISH	

Listen on mobile, online, through the SBS Radio app, or via digital radio

► sbs.com.au/radio

Digital



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The SBS Sport Website will provide audiences with match highlights and video extras, plus unique content from football's showpiece event, including exclusive talent opinion, interviews, features, TX information, promotion of SBS On Demand and SBS Radio offerings, as well as a FIFA interactive Match Centre.



Meanwhile, SBS On Demand will be the digital home of this year's event. 'FIFA World Cup Hub' on SBS On Demand, Australians can live stream all 64 games and catch up on all match replays, short-form video extras, mini games, and the daily highlights program available to enjoy anytime and anywhere. Stay awake ahead of late games with SBS On Demand's premium content selection of more than 9,000 hours of international sport, movies, dramas and docos and more.

Follow @SBSSportAU on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube to join the #SBSWorldCup conversation



The Analysis



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Group A



Qatar

The hosts will embark on their first ever FIFA World Cup campaign after the success of their shock victory at the 2019 AFC Asian Cup. Spaniard Felix Sanchez's men have since enjoyed the luxury of missing out on the qualification process but were put to the test in last year's FIFA Arab Cup, where they finished semi-finalists.

Ecuador

After missing out in Russia 2018, Ecuador will return to the World Cup stage off the back of an impressive qualifying campaign, led by former West Ham star Enner Valencia, which saw them trump the likes of Colombia and Chile for a spot in the finals.

Senegal

The reigning Africa Cup of Nations champions will enter their second consecutive World Cup campaign full of confidence despite drawing a strong group, with Chelsea stars Edouard Mendy and Kalidou Koulibaly, as well as Bayern Munich and former Liverpool forward Sadio Mane, all set to appear.

Netherlands

The European heavyweights will return to the World Cup stage eager to continue the form of their undefeated run in the UEFA Nations League. Anchored by captain and Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk, the renowned 3-4-1-2 formation of returning manager Louis Van Gaal will be home to stars across all areas of the park.

Group B



England

The Three Lions will be eager to go one better this time and reach the final in Qatar, but the side's inconsistent form is proving difficult to indicate how they will track at the 2022 finals. Tottenham Hotspur talisman Harry Kane is set to lead the line in Garth Southgate's 4-3-3 set-up, who will be hoping for a repeat of his captain's 12-goal showing from their qualifying success.

Iran

Asia's highest ranked team will be desperate to make it out of the group stage for the first time in their history, following narrow failures to do so at the previous two finals. Croatian manager Dragan Škočić will be relying on goals from star attacking pair Sardar Azmoun of Bayer Leverkusen and Porto's Mehdi Taremi for success in his maiden World Cup appearance as manager.

United States

The USA will be eager to return to the form which guided them to the Round of 16 in both 2010 and 2014 after missing out in Russia altogether. Led by native head coach Gregg Berhalter, the Americans will look to capitalise on what could be their strongest squad ever brought a World Cup with Chelsea starlet Christian Pulisic at the attacking fore.

Wales

In what will be their first appearance at a World Cup finals since 1958, former Real Madrid star Gareth Bale will lead Wales out onto the world stage. With their possession-heavy playing style and 4-3-3 formation, manager Rob Page will also be sure to utilise the talents of vice-captain Aaron Ramsey in midfield as well as young Fulham duo Daniel James and Harry Wilson.

Group C



Argentina

Ranked number three in the world, the Lionel Messi-led side's tactical style of sitting deep and looking to control possession paid off in spades as they went on to lift last year's Copa America trophy, which was soon followed by their qualification success where they were bested only by Brazil.

Saudi Arabia

The Saudis will make their second consecutive World Cup finals appearance eager to shake off the disappointment of their group-stage exit in the 2021 FIFA Arab Cup and arrest the form of their qualifiers, where they beat both Japan and Australia to the top spot.

Mexico

Gerardo Martino's eventful short time as Mexican head coach has been met with two agonising defeats to the USA in extra-time of both the CONCACAF Nations League and Gold Cup finals. Despite facing constant criticism of the team's playing style, Martino guided Mexico to Qatar with only Canada ahead of them on goal difference at the end of the qualifying campaign.

Poland

Led by talisman Robert Lewandowski, Poland's vertical playing style will be well suited to the pace of young wingers Nicola Zalewski and Sebastian Szymanski of Roma and Feyenoord respectively, as they operate under new manager Czesław Michniewicz's 4-4-2 formation.

The Analysis



Group D



France

The second half of 2022 has been far less fruitful for France, who have been rather inconsistent since their incredible World Cup campaign in Russia. Head coach Didier Deschamps will be looking to quell rumours of his departure in Qatar with a 4-4-2 formation spearheaded by strike duo Kylian Mbappe and Karim Benzema.

Australia

Australia's dramatic entry into the World Cup finals came after much scrutiny surrounding Graham Arnold's tactical style of heavy midfield rotation and patient build-up play centred around a 4-2-3-1 formation. The criticism was fuelled by an underwhelming qualification campaign which saw them drop points to Oman and lose key games at the back end of the qualifying phase.

Denmark

Coach Kasper Hareide has improved upon the formidable foundations Age Hareide established between 2015 to 2020, with a stubborn, defensive 4-3-3 making way for a fluid 3-4-3 that prioritises wing-backs like Joakim Maehle, and relying upon the engine and artistry of Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg and Christian Eriksen.

Tunisia

Qatar will mark Tunisia's sixth appearance on the global stage and second straight after bowing out of the group stage in Russia. Captain Youssef Msakni will lead the strong Tunisian contingent based in Middle Eastern countries such as Qatar, the same soil upon which Jalel Kadri's side made the FIFA Arab Cup final last year.

Group E



Spain

Spain have recently continued the form which catapulted them to first place in their qualifying group and to the semi-finals of the 2020 Euros. Currently thriving under their familiar 4-1-2-3 formation, Luis Enrique's star-studded side will be desperate to improve upon their last two World Cup performances, where they bowed out in the group stage and round of 16 respectively.

Costa Rica

Costa Rica's inconsistency of recent years has continued under new manager Luis Fernando Suárez, with disappointing exits in last year's CONCACAF Nations League and Gold Cup tournaments, and a qualification campaign which was saved by a late run of results and a narrow victory over New Zealand in the play-offs.

Germany

The Germans continued the curse of World Cup winners with their group stage exit in Russia but pose a genuine threat in Qatar with the recent appointment of Hansi Flick. Returning to their renowned 4-2-3-1 formation, Flick will look to use the incredible midfield depth of his squad to unlock the attacking abilities of the player in the tightly contested number nine position, whether it be Timo Werner or Serge Gnabry.

Japan

The Samurai Blues will look to repeat their surprise Round of 16 entry from 2018 with head coach Hajime Moriyasu, who took the reins from Akira Nishino after being his assistant in Russia. Despite the change in management, Japan's attacking style of play has not changed, although the 12 goals produced from their 10 third round AFC qualifiers would leave many questioning its effectiveness.

Group F



Belgium

Placing third in Russia 2018, Belgium will rely on the masterful dribbling abilities of veteran wingers Eden Hazard and Dries Mertens to set up the lone striker within their 3-4-3 formation, with long-time manager Roberto Martinez likely to have a tough time deciding between Romelu Lukaku and Michy Batshuayi.

Canada

One of the most enthralling stories to come out of the qualifying phase, Canada's extraordinary effort to make their first World Cup since 1986 arose from the nation's increasingly fanatical fanbase and manager John Herdman's unconventional but tactically effective 3-5-2 formation, powered by strikers Cyle Larin and Jonathan David.

Morocco

Morocco's managerial change a mere three months out from the tournament in Qatar could very well put a dent in their preparations for their second straight appearance at a World Cup finals, particularly after their strong effort in both qualifying and at the Africa Cup of Nations earlier this year.

Croatia

Boasting one of the strongest midfields in the world, Zlatko Dalic's men will once again be structured around a 4-3-3 or a variation of that formation, with the technical abilities of their ever-reliable captain and Ballon d'Or winner Luka Modric looking to steer the side beyond their incredible second-placed finish from Russia.

The Analysis



Group G



Brazil

The world's number one nation expectedly qualified for the tournament undefeated, with their attacking flair arising from their endless options up front which include focal point Neymar and Premier League stars Richarlison and Roberto Firmino. The Brazilians are likely to impress in Qatar with captain Thiago Silva holding down the defensive fort.

Serbia

Serbia look to be in top form heading into their second straight appearance at the World Cup finals, advancing directly to Qatar thanks to an eight-goal effort from talisman and Fulham star Aleksandar Mitrović which lifted them above Portugal in the final round of qualifying.

Switzerland

Known for being resolute in defence, Switzerland's 5-2-3 formation paid off in spades at the 2020 Euros as they knocked out World Cup winners France and fell just short of reaching the semi-finals. Anchored by captain Granit Xhaka in defensive midfield, head coach Murat Yakin will hope to see the reliability of veterans Xherdan Shaqiri and Haris Seferovic continue in attack.

Cameroon

After missing out in Russia 2018, Cameroon returns to the world stage off the back of a sensational play-off victory over Algeria. Under recently appointed manager Rigobert Song, the newfound stability of the Cameroonian midfield has given new life to its flamboyant attack, which includes captain Vincent Aboubakar and Bayern Munich veteran Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting.

Group H



Portugal

Boasting the attacking threats of Cristiano Ronaldo, Diogo Jota, Bruno Fernandes and Bernardo Silva, long-time manager Fernando Santos's trusty 4-2-3-1 formation should once again support the speed and dribbling abilities of his young attackers while allowing veteran defenders Pepe and Danilo Pereira to hold firm at the back.

Ghana

Despite finding form in their qualifiers and managing to prevent AFC heavyweights Nigeria from qualifying for Qatar, Ghana's managerial crisis and disastrous group stage exit from the Africa Cup of Nations tournament earlier this year have left cause for concern upon their chances for World Cup success.

Uruguay

The Uruguayan responded to their four straight qualifying losses from the back end of 2021 with as many wins to wrap up their qualification campaign. Led by veteran strikers Luis Suárez and Edinson Cavani, the South American side will be eager to continue their undefeated start to the calendar year by sealing a fourth consecutive escape from the group stage of the World Cup finals.

South Korea

Led by Premier League golden-boot winner Son Heung-Min, the third-highest ranked Asian nation will look to repeat the efforts of their shock 2-0 victory over reigning champions Germany in Russia, with their strength across all areas of the park exemplified through Wolverhampton midfielder Hwang Hee-chan and goalkeeper Jo Hyeon-woo.



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SBS Football experts will be available for interviews in the lead up to and during the 2022 FIFA World Cup™.

For interviews, images and further opportunities, please contact SBS Publicity:

Nikki Gunnis

Communications Specialist

- ✉ Nicola.gunnis@sbs.com.au
- ☎ 0426 780 426

Milly Palmer

Publicity Manager

- ✉ Milly.palmer@sbs.com.au
- ☎ 0406 348 248



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